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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,621	10/29/2003	Lu Jing	A3-324 US	7315
23683	7590	08/24/2004	EXAMINER	
MOLEX INCORPORATED 2222 WELLINGTON COURT LISLE, IL 60532			HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,621	JING, LU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brigitte R. Hammond	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the slot being "inwardly ladder-shaped" (claim 1) and the posterior part being covered by a seal layer (claim 5) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. **The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.**

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 6-8 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claims 6-8, line 1, change "the surface" to - -a surface- -. Appropriate correction is required.

In claim 1, it is unclear to the Examiner how the terminal slot of the terminal protection device is for "locking" the plate. For examination purposes the Examiner shall assume the slot is for "holding" the plate as shown in the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,2,6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa 6,530,786. Regarding claim 1, Ishikawa discloses a connector, comprising: an insulated housing 10 including a head portion (near 10a) and a rear portion (see arrows in fig. 1), wherein at least one terminal cavity 10a is formed in the interior of the insulated housing, and at least one terminal cavity penetrates from the head portion to the rear portion; at least one terminal 12 received in the at least one terminal cavity, the terminal includes a head portion (beginning of terminal near 12), a plate portion 41, an elastic portion (main body portion) connecting the head (beginning of terminal near 12) plate portions 41 and a tail portion 2a extending from the plate portion 41; and a terminal protection device 14 fixed at the rear portion of the insulated housing and having at least one terminal slot at 24 whose shape corresponds to the tail portion of

the at least one terminal for being penetrated by the tail portion of at least one terminal and for holding the plate portion.

Regarding claim 2, the terminal protection device is made of a plastic plate.

Regarding claim 6, a surface of the terminal protection device facing the rear portion of the insulated housing is provided with at least one fixing protuberance 28 for fixing the terminal protection device to the rear portion of the insulated housing.

Regarding claim 7, a surface of the terminal protection device facing the rear portion of the insulated housing is provided with at least one positioning protuberance 28, and at least one positioning slot 26a for being engaged by a corresponding positioning protuberance (not shown).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-5 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claim 3, patentability resides, at least in part, in the terminal slot being inwardly ladder-shaped, and includes an anterior part, a barb and a posterior part from the side of the terminal protection device facing the rear portion to the other side, and the posterior part is narrower than the anterior part, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim and regarding claim 8, patentability resides, at least in part, in the terminal protection device being provided with at least one filling protuberance

filling a notch at the rear portion of the insulated housing, the notch communicating with one of the terminal cavities, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brigitte R. Hammond

August 19, 2004

Brigitte Hammond